



Comprehensive Strategy for Lucas County Children & Families



Volume 3, Issue 1

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Our Mission: Engaging the community in enacting the Comprehensive Strategy initiatives through education, promoting collaboration, and providing resources for planning.

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS: *Favorable Parental Attitudes & Involvement in the Problem Behavior*

LUCAS COUNTY DRUG COURT

Kristen Blake, Drug Court Coordinator, Lucas County Juvenile Court

According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, parental substance abuse and addiction is the primary cause of at least 70% of all child welfare spending. Parental use of alcohol and other drugs often inhibits a parent's ability to protect children; it leaves the parent emotionally and physically unavailable to the child; it diverts money intended for basic necessities such as food and shelter, and it lowers parental thresholds of aggression, as reported by the Child Welfare League of America. The result, according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, is that children of substance abusing parents experience higher incidences of malnutrition and disease, depression, truancy, sexual promiscuity, panic attacks, low self esteem and suicide.

"The mission of a family drug court is to establish an integrated, court-based collaboration that protects children from abuse and neglect precipitated by substance abuse, through timely decisions, coordinated services, and safe, appropriate, permanent placements." Family Drug Courts encourage and facilitate collaboration between child protection services and treatment, thus reducing fragmentation of services. In addition, judicial oversight and graduated sanctions and incentives provide a sense of immediacy to the parent's recovery and motivate compliance with their treatment plans.

The Lucas County Family Drug Court began in March of 2000, after a year of planning by the court, the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board (ADAS), treatment providers, Lucas County TASC (Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime), defense counsel, prosecutors and Lucas County Children Services. The Family Drug Court is designed to provide treatment, intensive case management and support services for parents who have lost custody of their children due to conditions precipitated by substance abuse, with a goal to reunify parents and children in safe appropriate homes. Once placed in the program, the parents must commit to a minimum of one year in the Family Drug Court, and this includes weekly to monthly court appearances. The initial target population was for 20 parents, and to date the Lucas County Family Drug Court has served 93 parents. Currently, the program has 41 active parents and has successfully completed 21 parents. Additionally, 70 children have been re-unified with their parent(s), and a total of nine drug-free babies have been born to mothers who were actively participating in the program. The savings to these children, their families and the community are immense.

In September of 2002, the Lucas County Juvenile Court was awarded a three year, \$1.2 million grant by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, for the expansion and enhancement of the Lucas County Family Drug Court. With this grant, the court is expanding the capacity to serve 60 parents, and is partnering with several community agencies for support services including UMADAOP, the University of Toledo Learning Resource Center, Read for Literacy, and the University of Toledo for an evaluation component. The Family Drug Court is truly excited about this new venture.

OUR VISION

Lucas County will be a community...

- ☐ That supports parents in caring for their children.
- ☐ Where families set their own goals and provide a loving, nurturing, supportive and safe environment.
- ☐ Where parents are the primary service specialists for their children and will provide opportunities for their growth.
- ☐ Where the community will support parents with the necessary assistance for the care and nurturing of their children.



SPOTLIGHT

on Favorable Parental Attitudes:

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- Family Drug Court Case Flow - page 2
- National Drug Courts - page 3

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Lucas Cty. Juvenile Probation

The Probation Department is committed to the balanced approach framework which emphasizes a commitment to competency development, accountability, and community protection. As such, the department strives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for delinquent activity, while providing referral to resources that reduce criminal behavior, and to increase the ability of youth to live productively and responsibly in the community. The Probation Department embraces a philosophy that emphasizes the important role of the family in relation to each youth referred for services. Assessment, referral to treatment and intervention are provided based on each offender's needs. Many of these interventions focus on teaching life skills and coping skills to youth through referral to diverse programming that includes anger management, critical thinking errors, individual and family therapy, and substance abuse assessment and referral to treatment.

Ultimately, the Probation Department works to fulfill the court's mission to: a) ensure public safety; b) work with the community to develop and enforce standards of responsible behavior for adults and children, and c) to ensure the balance between consequences and rehabilitation while holding offenders accountable for their actions. To this end, we focus our energies.

Substance Abuse Services (SAS) staff have extensive knowledge regarding drugs and alcohol, and are certified as Certified Chemical Dependency Counselors (CCDC). Over the years, SAS has shifted its focus from providing education to a more comprehensive approach of screening, assessment, and referral. As a result, more youth are linked to treatment and/or services in the community including drug/alcohol education classes, out-patient counseling, day treatment, in-patient treatment, and residential placement if necessary.

Substance Abuse Services also conducts a monthly, eight-hour drug and alcohol intervention program, the Chemical Awareness Program (CAP). The program provides information about the pharmacological effects of alcohol and chemicals and the disease of alcoholism. Intervention plans are determined by assessment through a combination of family, parent, and adolescent group sessions conducted during the program. Parents are required to attend all sessions with their child. The sessions are under the direction of court personnel with various community agencies presenting related topics.

2001 Substance Abuse Services Activity

Referrals	829
Successful Terminations	610
Unsuccessful Terminations	87
Other	120
SAS Terminations	820
Referrals to CAP	137
CAP Successful Completions	121
CAP Unsuccessful Completions	5
Other	10

- Lucas County Juvenile Probation, 419.213.6610

Family Drug Court - continued from page 1

"Substance abuse presents a wide array of problems that families must face when dealing with the addiction, including child abuse and neglect," said Judge James Ray, Administrative Judge for Lucas County Juvenile Court. "This program aims to find permanent solutions for the addicted individual and the family so that they may be reunited and healthy relationships can be re-established."

The new SAMHSA grant will allow the Lucas County Family Drug Court to not only expand its target capacity to sixty client families, but also provide additional services. New services will include a Kinship Support/Strengthening Families Program, vocational and educational programming, educational and vocational assessments, a Read for Literacy Program, post-treatment support groups, and mediation as needed for Family Group Conferencing. The grant will be administered for three years, with funding levels of \$400,000 each year.

The overall goal of Lucas County Family Drug Court is to reunite children with parents, by providing the assistance necessary to establish timely, appropriate, and permanent homes for children. Decisions made in the program will be driven by what is in the best interest of neglected or abused children.

**Additional background material added from
[www.co.lucas.oh.us/commissioners/
drugcourtgrant.asp](http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/commissioners/drugcourtgrant.asp)**

**- For more information, contact Kristen Blake, Lucas
County Juvenile Court,
419.213.6645, kblake@co.lucas.oh.us**

Family Drug Court Case Flow

Following a violation of court ordered drug/alcohol treatment by a parent, a hearing before the assigned magistrate will offer drug court participation as an alternative disposition. The requirements and consequences of non-compliance are fully explained and, if the parent chooses to participate, the imposition of sentence is delayed during the drug court program.

Court hearings are scheduled weekly for parents in Phase I of the program; every two weeks for parents in Phase II, and monthly for Phase III. Multi-disciplinary Drug Court Teams meet for staffing prior to each court session and provide parents with access to a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related rehabilitation services. Abstinence is monitored by frequent testing.

The court provides both positive reinforcement for success and negative consequences for non-compliance.

Dependency/abuse/neglect cases proceed on the statutory path, parallel to the Drug Court case. The family's case worker and defense counsel communicate drug court progress at dependency hearings and the children's guardian ad litem are invited to attend Drug Court sessions.

Successful termination from Drug Court requires successful completion of all phases of treatment and aftercare and no further court contact for six months.

- www.state.oh.us/ojc/Mitchell-Ray.PPT

The Drug Court Alternative

Drug courts were first implemented in the late 1980's, but they did not develop in a vacuum. They are an outgrowth of the continuing development of community-based team-oriented approaches that have their roots in innovative programs developed by pretrial, probation, and parole agencies, as well as treatment-based partnerships such as TASC (Treatment Alternative to Street Crime) and law enforcement innovations such as community policing programs.

Drug courts and other new and innovative community-based court programs making up the community court field are, in turn, part of the "community justice" field. Along with community policing, community prosecution, and community corrections, these programs are evolving fast, gaining momentum, and spreading across the country. As the community justice field evolves into the 21st century, so too will drug courts.

The mission of drug courts is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity. Drug courts offer a compelling choice for individuals whose criminal justice involvement stems from AOD use: participation in treatment. In exchange for successful completion of the treatment program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer some lesser penalty, or offer a combination of these.

Drug courts transform the roles of both criminal justice practitioners and AOD treatment providers. The judge is the central figure in a team effort that focuses on sobriety and accountability as the primary goals. Because the judge takes on the role of trying to keep participants engaged in treatment, providers can effectively focus on developing a therapeutic relationship with the participant. In turn, treatment providers keep the court informed of each participant's progress so that rewards and sanctions can be provided.

Drug courts create an environment with clear and certain rules. The rules are definite, easy to understand, and most important, compliance is within the individual's control. The rules are based on the participant's performance and are measurable. For example, the participant either appears in court or does not, attends treatment sessions or does not; the drug tests reveal drug use or abstinence. The participant's performance is immediately and directly communicated to the judge, who rewards progress or penalizes noncompliance. A drug court establishes an environment that the participant can understand - a system in which clear choices are presented and individuals are encouraged to take control of their own recovery.

Drug Courts Today

- 804 Drug Courts in Operation
 - 547 Adult Drug Courts
 - 207 Juvenile Drug Courts
 - 41 Family Drug Courts
 - 9 Combination Drug Courts
- 507 Drug Courts in Planning Process
 - 317 Adult Drug Courts
 - 123 Juvenile Drug Courts
 - 62 Family Drug Courts
 - 5 Combination
- 300,000+ Adults, 12,500 Juveniles Enrolled in Drug Courts to Date
 - 73,000 Adult, 4,000 Juvenile Graduates
 - 70% Retention Rate
 - 75% Previously Incarcerated
 - 1000 Drug Free Babies Born
 - 3,500 Parents who Regained Custody of Children
 - 4,500 Re-engaged in Child Support Payments
 - 73% Retained or Obtained Employment



Drug Courts - Dept. of Justice

• www.drugcourtech.org

Drug Court Planning Initiative

• <http://dcpi.ncjrs.org>

Office of Nat'l Drug Control Policy

• www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/drugcourt.html

LOCAL RISK FACTORS

Favorable Parental Attitudes & Involvement in the Problem Behavior:

• Indicators:

- ☐ Adult violent crime arrests
- ☐ Adult drug offense arrests

Friends Who Engage in the Problem Behavior:

• Indicators:

- ☐ Alcohol use in 8th, 10th & 12th grades
- ☐ Marijuana use in 8th, 10th & 12th grades
- ☐ Cigarette use in 8th, 10th & 12th grades
- ☐ Cocaine use in 8th, 10th & 12th grades
- ☐ Teen pregnancy rates

Academic Failure Beginning in Elementary School:

• Indicators:

- ☐ Drop-out rate
- ☐ Graduation rate
- ☐ Reading proficiency
- ☐ Math proficiency

Early Initiation to Problem Behavior:

• Indicators:

- ☐ Alcohol use in early grades
- ☐ Marijuana use in early grades
- ☐ Cigarette use in early grades
- ☐ Cocaine use in early grades

Family Management Problems:

• Indicators:

- ☐ Number of children in substitute care
- ☐ Incidences of substantiated child abuse or neglect

-based on local data gathered for the community report on *A Comprehensive Strategy for Lucas County Children & Families*, 1999

The Community Partnership

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Comprehensive Strategy for Lucas County Children & Families

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The Comprehensive Strategy for Lucas County Children & Families newsletter is a cooperative effort of many agencies throughout the county. For copies of the initial report or data CD, or to join the mailing list, contact The Community Partnership at 419.866.3611, 5902 Southwyck Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43614 or e-mail Cyndi@communityprevention.org. For specific Comp Strategy questions, call Kristen Kania at Lucas County Family Council, 419.213.6994, or e-mail kkania@co.lucas.oh.us

OVERVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

Problem Behavior □ Noncriminal Misbehavior □ Delinquency □ Serious, Violent & Chronic Offending

Prevention

Target Population: At-Risk Youth

Graduated Sanctions

Target Population: Delinquent Youth

Programs for
All Youth



Programs for Youth
at Greatest Risk



Immediate
Intervention



Intermediate
Sanctions



Community
Confinement



Training
Schools



Aftercare

Youth Development Goals:

- Healthy and nurturing families
- Safe communities
- School attachment
- Prosocial peer relations
- Personal development and life skills
- Healthy lifestyle choices

Youth Habilitation Goals:

- Healthy family participation
- Community reintegration
- Educational success and skills development
- Healthy peer network development
- Prosocial values development
- Healthy lifestyle choices